

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (Currently Amended). An ultrasound applicator for applying ultrasound energy to the thoracic cavity of an individual, said ultrasound applicator comprising

~~a housing sized and configured for placement during use on a chest or near the sternum, the housing having inferior and superior edge portions and lateral side portions,~~

an ultrasound transducer carried within the housing to transcutaneously apply ultrasound energy to the thoracic cavity, the ultrasound transducer being sized to provide a power density not exceeding 3 watts/cm² at a maximum total power output of no greater than 200 watts operating at a fundamental therapeutic frequency not exceeding 500 kHz, whereby the application of ultrasound energy increases the blood flow of the individual; and

~~an a strap assembly worn on the chest and affixed to interior and/or superior edge portions of the housing[,] to stabilize placement of the housing on the chest during application of ultrasound energy, the strap assembly including being substantially free of components worn about the neck and/or back that leave the chest on opposing affixed to the lateral sides side portions of the housing uncovered, to not impede placement of another treatment device on the chest alongside the housing at the same time the housing is stabilized on the chest by the assembly during use.~~

2 (Currently Amended). An applicator according to claim 1

wherein the strap assembly includes a quick release mechanism.

3 (Currently Amended). An applicator according to claim 1

wherein the strap assembly includes a quick release material.

4 (Currently Amended). An applicator according to claim 1

wherein the ~~components include~~ strap assembly includes a sling worn between the waist and shoulders.

5 (Currently Amended). An applicator according to claim 1

wherein the ~~components include~~ strap assembly includes a halter worn about the chest and shoulders.

6 (Canceled).

7 (Original). An applicator according to claim 1

wherein the housing includes a chamber to hold fluid about the ultrasound transducer.

8 (Original). An applicator according to claim 1
wherein the housing accommodates circulation of fluid about the ultrasound transducer.

9 (Original). An applicator according to claim 1
wherein the housing includes an ultrasound conducting interface.

10 (Original). An applicator according to claim 1
wherein the housing includes a contour-conforming interface with skin.

11 (Original). An applicator according to claim 1
wherein the housing includes a skirt that spaces the ultrasound transducer from contact with skin.

12 (Original). An applicator according to claim 1
wherein the housing includes an ultrasound-conducting membrane for contacting skin.

13 (Currently Amended). An applicator according to claim 1
wherein the housing ~~has an~~ is elongated shape ~~along a superior-to-inferior axis of the sternum~~ between the inferior and superior portions.

14 (Original). An applicator according to claim 1
wherein the housing includes a coupling assembly to releasably couple the ultrasound transducer to an external electric signal generating machine.

15 (Previously presented). An applicator according to claim 14
wherein the assembly includes a quick coupling mechanism.

16 (New). A method comprising
providing an ultrasound applicator as defined in claim 1,
stabilizing the housing for use comprising using the strap assembly,
applying ultrasound energy, and
placing another treatment device alongside the housing during use.